

Francesco Benavides, CSBN 258924  
Law Offices of Francesco Benavides  
1990 N. California Blvd. 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596  
Tel: (925) 222-7071  
Email: [francesco@benavidesdisabilitylaw.com](mailto:francesco@benavidesdisabilitylaw.com)

Attorney for Plaintiff  
**DIONNE SINGLETON**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
FRESNO DIVISION

DIONNE SINGLETON,

Case No. 1:24-cv-01417-BAM

Plaintiff,

V.

FRANK BISIGNANO, Commissioner of  
Social Security,

**STIPULATION FOR THE AWARD AND  
PAYMENT OF ATTORNEY FEES AND  
EXPENSES PURSUANT TO THE EQUAL  
ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT; [PROPOSED]  
ORDER**

**Defendant.**

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED by and between the parties through their undersigned counsel, subject to the approval of the Court, that Plaintiff be awarded attorney fees and expenses in the amount of \$8,200.00, under the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), and no costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920. This amount represents compensation for all legal services rendered on behalf of Plaintiff by counsel in connection with this civil action, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. §§ 2412(d), 1920.

The parties stipulate that the position of the United States was not substantially justified in this case, and therefore, Plaintiff is entitled to attorney fees pursuant to EAJA.

After the Court issues an order for EAJA fees to Plaintiff, the government will consider the matter of Plaintiff's assignment of EAJA fees to counsel. Pursuant to *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586, 598, 130 S.Ct. 2521, 177 L.Ed.2d 91 (2010), the ability to honor the assignment will depend on whether the fees are subject to any offset allowed under the United States Department of the

1 Treasury's Offset Program. After the order for EAJA fees is entered, the government will determine  
2 whether they are subject to any offset.

3 Fees shall be made payable to Plaintiff, but if the Department of the Treasury determines that  
4 Plaintiff does not owe a federal debt, then the government shall cause the payment of fees, expenses  
5 and costs to be made directly to Plaintiff's counsel, Francesco Benavides, pursuant to the assignment  
6 executed by Plaintiff.

7 Payments may be made by electronic funds transfer (EFT) or by check.

8 This stipulation constitutes a compromise settlement of Plaintiff's request for EAJA attorney  
9 fees and does not constitute an admission of liability on the part of Defendant under the EAJA or  
10 otherwise. Payment of the agreed amount shall constitute a complete release from, and bar to, any  
11 and all claims that Plaintiff and/or Francesco Benavides, including the Law Offices of Francesco  
12 Benavides, may have relating to EAJA attorney fees in connection with this action.

13 This award is without prejudice to the rights of Francesco Benavides to seek Social Security  
14 Act attorney fees under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b), subject to the savings clause provisions of the EAJA.  
15

16 Respectfully submitted,

17 Dated: December 23, 2025 Law Offices of Francesco Benavides  
18

19 By: /s/ Francesco Benavides  
FRANCESCO P. BENAVIDES  
20 Attorney for Plaintiff

21 Dated: December 23, 2025 ERIC GRANT  
22 United States Attorney  
23 MATHEW W. PILE  
Head of Program Litigation 1  
24 Social Security Administration

25 By: Lori Lookliss\*  
LORI LOOKLISS  
26 Special Assistant U.S. Attorney  
27 Attorneys for Defendant  
(\*Permission to use electronic signature  
28 obtained via email on December 23, 2025).

## ORDER

Based upon the parties' Stipulation for the Award and Payment of Equal Access to Justice Act Fees and Expenses, **IT IS ORDERED** that fees and expenses in the amount of \$8,200.00 as authorized by 28 U.S.C. § 2412, and no costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920, be awarded subject to the terms of the Stipulation.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: **December 29, 2025**

/s/ Barbara A. McAuliffe

**UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**